

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

National

- Union Budget for Financial Year 2020-21 has been represented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She presented this budget for the 2nd time. First time she presented on July 5, 2019.



The GDP growth of India's forecasts at between 6.00% to 6.50% and the nominal GDP growth has been estimated at 10% for the financial year 2020-21.

This budget was based on three prominent themes underlining the Ease of Living:

- Aspirational India:** For agriculture, irrigation and rural development, wellness, water and sanitation, education and skills
- Economic Development for all:** For industry, commerce and investment, infrastructure, new economy
- Caring Society:** For women & child, social welfare, culture and Tourism, Environment and Climate Change

Highlights

- Benefit to MSMEs through enhanced threshold and composition limits.
- 20% reduction in turnaround time for trucks.
- Savings of around 4% on monthly spending for an average household. The budget has provided an outlay of ₹ 8,000 crores for quantum computing over five years to break into this technology.
- Finance Minister halves the customs duty on import of newsprint, lightweight coated paper to 5%.
- Government has extended concessional withholding rate of 5% on interest payment to non-residents up to June 30, 2022.
- 'Vivaad Se Vishwas' Scheme will be launched to reduce tax litigation.

- GST has integrated the country economically, a 10% reduction in overall taxes.
- India's FDI elevated to 284 Billion USD from 190 Billion USD.
- The debt of central government reduced in March 2019 to 48.7% of GDP from 52.2% in March 2014.
- Proposal to undertake 16 Action Points including agricultural-related points, water stress-related points.
- Solar Power generation units will be set up for farmers to make a living out of the barren land.
- Kisan Rail through PPP model to transport perishable goods quickly.
- Krishi Udaan will be launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on international and national routes.
- By 2030, India will have the largest working-age population in the world.
- Approx. 150 higher education institutes will start Apprenticeship embedded degree diploma courses by March 2021.
- National Police University and National Foreign University will be set up. Medical colleges to be set up at district level to produce more doctors.
- High-Speed Train on Mumbai-Ahemadabad route would be actively pursued.
- Electrification of 27000 km train track and solar-powered capacity to be set up alongside rail tracks.
- Government will allow tech companies to set up Data Centre parks to provide internet to citizens.
- A new scheme NIRVIC (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojana) will be launched this year with the aim of increasing India's export credit. It will look into setting up hubs in smaller rural areas and districts.
- India will host G20 Presidency in the year 2022 and the Finance Ministry allocated ₹ 100 crores for its preparations.
- A budget of ₹ 28,600 crores announced for programs launched especially for women.
- Taskforce to be set up to recommend marriageable age for women.
- The government has plans to raise money through LIC IPO. The government will thus sell part of its holding in the LIC.

Digital Revolution of Governance focused on (guided by 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas')

- Preventive Healthcare: Provision of sanitation and water
- Healthcare: Ayushman Bharat
- Clean energy: Ujjawala and Solar Power

- Financial Inclusion Credit support and Pension Financial Inclusion, Credit support and Pension
- Affordable Housing
- Improvement of physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline
- Social Security through Pension and Insurance penetration.

Financial Sector

- Deposit Insurance Coverage to increase from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh per depositor.
- Eligibility limit for NBFCs for debt recovery under SARFAESI Act proposed to be reduced to (asset size of) ₹ 100 crore or loan size of ₹ 50 Lakh.
- Proposal to sell balance holding of government of IDBI Bank.
- Proposal to separate NPS Trust for government employees from PFRDAI.
- Specified categories of government securities would be opened for non-resident investors.
- FPI Limit for corporate bonds to be increased to 15%.
- New debt ETF proposed mainly for government securities.
- Concessional corporate tax rate of 15% to new domestic companies in manufacturing and power sector.
- Tax concession for sovereign wealth fund of foreign governments and other foreign investments.
- Tax benefits to Start-ups by way of deduction of 100% of their profits are enhanced by increasing turnover limit and period of eligibility.
- Extension of time limits pertaining to the tax benefits for affordable housing.
- Issuance of Unique Registration Number to all charity institutions for easy tax compliance.
- Health cess to be imposed on imports of medical equipment given these are made significantly in India.
- Dividend Distribution Tax removed, and classical system of dividend taxation adopted.
- Simplified and New Income Tax Regime as an option to the old regime, implemented from April 1, 2020.

| Income | New tax rate | Prevailing tax rate |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| ₹ 5-7.5 lakhs | 10% | 20% |
| ₹ 7.5-10 lakhs | 15% | 20% |
| ₹ 10-12.5 lakhs | 20% | 30% |
| ₹ 12.5-15 lakhs | 25% | 30% |
| More than ₹ 15 lakhs | 30% | 30% |

Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development

- PM KUSUM will cover 20 lakh farmers for standalone solar pumps and further 15 lakh for grid connected pumps.
- Viability gap funding for creation of efficient warehouses on PPP mode.
- SHGs run Village storage scheme will be launched.
- Integration of e-NWR with e-NAM.
- Launching of 'Kisan Rail' and 'Krishi Udaan' by Indian Railways and Ministry of Civil Aviation, respectively for a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables.
- Fish Production target of 200 lakh tonnes by 2022-23.
- Another 45000 acres of aquaculture to be supported.
- Fishery extension through 3477 Sagar Mitras and 500 fish FPOs.
- Raise fishery exports to ₹ 1 lakh crore by 2024-25.

Wellness, Water and Sanitation

- More than 20 000 empanelled hospitals under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
- FIT India movement launched to fight NCDs.
- Coverage of ₹ 35 lakhs under Nikshay Poshan Yojana.
- 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' campaign launched to end TB by 2025.
- Viability gap funding proposed for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode.
- Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts by 2024.
- ODF Plus to sustain ODF behaviour.
- Focus on liquid and grey water management along with waste management.

Education and Skills

- About 150 higher educational institutions will start apprenticeship embedded courses.
- Internship opportunities to fresh engineers will be provided by urban local bodies.
- Special bridge courses will be launched to improve skill sets of those seeking employment abroad.
- Degree level online education programmes will be launched for students of deprived sections of the society.
- Ind-SAT to be conducted in Asia and Africa under Study in India programme.

New Economy

- Knowledge Translation Clusters for emerging technology sectors.

- Scale up of Technology Clusters harbouring test beds and small scale manufacturing facilities.
- National Mission on Quantum Technologies and applications with an outlay of ₹ 8000 crore proposed.

Industry, Commerce and Investment

- Scheme to encourage manufacturing of mobile phones, electronic equipment and semi-conductor packaging.
- National Technical Textiles Mission will be launched for a period of 4 years.
- NIRVIK Scheme for higher export credit disbursement launched.
- Set up of an Investment Clearance Cell to provide end to end facilitation.
- Extension of invoice financing to MSMEs through TReDs.
- A scheme to provide subordinate debt for entrepreneurs of MSMEs.
- Scheme anchored by EXIM Bank and SIDBI to handhold MSMEs in exports markets.

Infrastructure

- National Logistics Policy will be launched soon.
- Roads: Accelerated development of Highways.
- Railways:
 - Four station redevelopment projects.
 - 150 passenger trains through PPP mode.
 - More Tejas type trains for tourist destinations.
- Port: Corporatization of at least one major port.
- Air: 100 more airports will be developed under UDAAN.
- Power: Efforts will be made to replace conventional energy meters by prepaid smart meters.
- Gas Grid: Expand National Gas Grid to 27,000 km.
- Infrastructure Financing: ₹ 103 lakh crore announced for National infrastructure Pipeline projects.
- An international bullion exchange to be set up at GIFT City.

Caring Society- Women & child social welfare

- More than 6 lakh anganwadi workers will be equipped with smart phones.
- A task force will be appointed for recommendation regarding lowering MMR and improving nutrition levels.

Culture and Tourism

- Proposal has been made to establish Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation.

- **5 archaeological sites:** Rakhi Garhi Haryana, Hastinapur UP, Shivsagar Assam, Dolavira Assam, Adichalanur in TN; will be developed as iconic sites.
- A museum on Numismatics and Trade will be established.
- A tribal museum will be set up in Ranchi.
- Maritime museum will be set up at Lothal.

Environment and Climate Change

- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure launched in September 2019.
- Encouragement to states implementing plans for cleaner air in cities above 1 million.

Budget allocation to major schemes

- ₹ 50040 crores to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- ₹ 67112 crores to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ₹ 72216 crores to Ministry of Railways
- ₹ 91823 crores to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- ₹ 99312 crores to Ministry of Human Resource Development
- ₹ 122398 crores to Ministry of Rural Development
- ₹ 124535 crores to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- ₹ 142762 crores to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- ₹ 167250 crores to Ministry of Home Affairs
- ₹ 471378 crores to Ministry of Defence
- ₹ 3.60 lakh crores to Jal Jeevan mission
- ₹ 12,300 crores to Swach Bharat Mission
- ₹ 6,000 crore to BharatNet
- ₹ 85,000 crores to SC and OBC classes
- ₹ 53,700 crores to ST class
- ₹ 9,500 crores to senior citizens & divyangs
- ₹ 3150 crores to Ministry of Culture

© India became the second-largest steel producer of crude steel (as per World Steel Association data) after China by replacing Japan. India's crude steel production in 2019 was at 111.2 MT. There was an increase of 1.7% from 109.3 MT in 2018. China remains at number one with 996.3 million tonnes. While the United States and Russia rank fourth and fifth, respectively.

© India ranked at 77th position in the Sustainability Index 2020 and 131st in the Flourishing Index 2020. The report commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Lancet medical journal.



- ⊙ The United States has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner. The bilateral trade between the US and India stood at nearly 88 billion dollars in 2018-19 fiscal. During the period, India's trade with China was at 87.1 billion dollars. During April-December 2019-20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at 68 billion dollars against a nearly 65 billion dollars trade with China in the same period.
- ⊙ Defence deals between India and the United States worth of 3 billion dollars has been finalized worth 3 billion dollars. India has agreed to purchase USD 3 billion worth advanced American military equipment including Apache and MH-60 Romeo helicopters, which are the finest in the world.
- ⊙ On February 28, the **National Science Day** has been celebrated in all over India with the theme of **Women in Science**. This theme has been chosen for the purpose of increasing public appreciation of the scientific issues involved.



This day is celebrated because of the announcement of the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir CV Raman. For this achievement, he was awarded by Nobel Prize in 1930. Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.

- ⊙ Donald Trump, the president of the United States has arrived in India on 24th February 2020 and was accompanied by the First Lady of the United States, Melania Trump. He has become the first serving US President to visit Gujarat.



After the arrival, he was welcomed by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and headed towards Sabarmati Ashram where they spun the Charkha and then head towards the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad for "Namaste Trump" event.

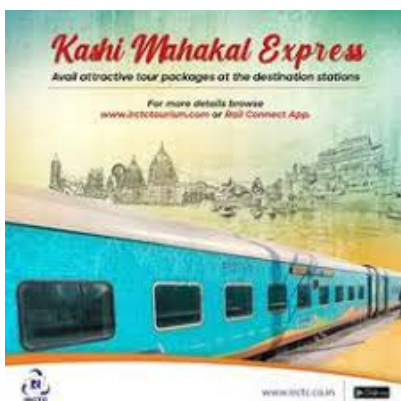
- ⊙ Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has operationalized the first ever helicopter services in the state of Uttarakhand, under the Regional Connectivity Scheme "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)" of Government of India.
- ⊙ A mobile application named **Yodhavu** (which means 'Warrior') has been launched by Kerala government at Kochi, Kerala. By using this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- ⊙ A campaign **Pyaar ka Paudha** (a plant of love) has been launched by the Bihar government in Patna by the department of Environment and Forest, to encourage the practice of planting trees in the state.
- ⊙ A web portal of Shri Badrinath and Shri Kedarnath temple committee developed by Uttarakhand state National Informatics Centre, has been launched by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- ⊙ A cultural festival **Vasantotsav** has been organised by the department of Youth and cultural Affairs, Government of Gujara, with the theme of **Ek Bhaart Shreshth Bharat**.
- ⊙ As per the **Global Intellectual Property Index 2020**, India has been ranked 40th out of 53 countries. Last year, India was placed at 36th position among 50 countries. The US, UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies in this index.
- ⊙ Facebook launched its **We Think Digital** programme, under which the social media giant will provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across seven states, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. In partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation, the program aims to provide digital literacy training to one lakh women across seven states through the year.
- ⊙ Accenture opened its third **innovation hub** in the country at Pune, which will house 1,200 people working on various technologies. Bengaluru and Hyderabad are the other Indian cities having the hubs, which are also present in two cities of Brazil, and one each in Canada, China, Finland, Japan, Switzerland, Australia and Singapore.
- ⊙ The US removed India from its list of developing countries that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidised exports. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) eliminated a host of countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Argentina.



- Realme PaySa has joined hand with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an innovative solutions provider for retail payment systems, and the country's largest private lender HDFC Bank to conduct UPI hackathon.



- As per the **World Population Review**, India has emerged as the 5th-largest world economy in 2019, overtaking the United Kingdom and France.
- Microsoft has set up a new development centre in Noida, its third such facility in India that will serve as an engineering and innovation hub for the company. The India Development Centre (IDC) represents Microsoft's strategy of globally shared development to build products and services for driving digital innovation.
- Microsoft has collaborated with SBI Foundation to create opportunities in the banking and financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector, for youth with disabilities. Under this initiative, the two organisations will upskill 500 youth for BFSI jobs across Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR.
- Amazon India has partnered with the Eastern Railway to set up a **pick-up kiosk** (for packages) at Sealdah Railway Station in Kolkata. Sealdah is one of the busiest railway stations in the country, with a daily footfall of nearly 2 million. In 2019, as a pilot, Amazon India partnered with the Indian Railways to launch pick-up kiosks in four railway stations across Mumbai.
- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is all set to introduce third corporate train, which will ply between Varanasi and Indore.



The train **Kashi Mahakal Express** was inaugurated on February 16. Its commercial run will begin from March 19, 2020. This superfast air-conditioned train will connect three Jyotirlinga - Omkareshwar, Mahakaleshwar and Kashi Vishwanath besides also connecting the industrial and educational hub of Indore and Bhopal.

Economy

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee released its **6th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy 2019-20**. It decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged to 5.15%. and also decided to maintain the accommodative stance of monetary policy to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

Key Decisions of the Committee

- (i) The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) left unchanged to 5.15%.
- (ii) The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands same that is, 4.90%.
- (iii) The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate also remains same that is, 5.40%.
- (iv) RBI has increased the real GDP growth for fiscal year 2020-21 from 5% to 6%.
- The Reserve Bank of India conducted the **Financial Literacy Week 2020** from February 10 to February 14, 2020 with the theme 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)'.
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has increased the insurance coverage for depositors in all insured banks from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh with effect from February 4, 2020.



- The Union Cabinet has empowered Reserve Bank of India to have better control over urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks. The bank is empowered after the amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- IndusInd Bank has topped the list of **Highest increase in the brand value** as per 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, among the global banks. The brand value of IndusInd Bank has increased by 122% over the past 12 months, which makes it the highest placed for growth in brand value, across the globe.
- The Indian reinsurance company, General Insurance Corporation of India has received the license from Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia) to commence reinsurance business in Russia.

- ⊙ Restrictions placed on the **Bandhan Bank** have been removed by the Reserve Bank of India also granted the permission to open new branches without prior permission. The RBI implemented some regulatory conditions and directed the bank to open 25% of the total banking outlets to be opened in rural areas where banking facilities are not available.
- ⊙ The Airtel Payments Bank has launched the **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System** (AePS). The facility has been launched by the payment bank at over 2,50,000 banking points across India.
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India has directed all Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), Small Finance Banks and Local Area Banks to link all new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with external benchmarks. The decision has been taken by the RBI to further strengthen the monetary policy transmission.
- ⊙ **Baroda Startup Banking** has been inaugurated by the Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar aimed at making the Bank of Baroda a preferred banking partner for the start-up community and establishing connect with at least 2,000 start-ups over the next two years. The initiative was launched simultaneously across 15 cities in the country.
- ⊙ Moody's Investors Service has cut India's 2020 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 5.4% from 6.6% and the next financial year (2020-21) growth rate estimate to 5.8% from 6.7%.
- ⊙ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised ₹ 850 crore (USD 118 million) from a new issue of offshore Indian rupee-linked 10-year bonds.

Sports

- ⊙ **Bangladesh** has won the **ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020** held in South Africa. Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team defeated India Under-19 team by 3 wickets to win the final of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020 held at JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa. This was the 13th edition of the tournament in which 16 teams participated from all over the world.
- ⊙ The **ESPN India Awards 2019** was announced. The ESPN.in Awards recognises the best individual and team performances in Indian sport on a calendar-year basis. ESPN Multi-Sport Awards recognised achievements across 10 categories.



List of Winners

| Award | Name Winner |
|---|--|
| Sportsperson of the Year (Female) | PV Sindhu (Badminton) |
| Sportsperson of the Year (Male) | Saurabh Chaudhary (Pistol shooter) |
| Emerging Sportsperson of the Year | Deepak Punia (Freestyle wrestler) |
| Coach of the Year | Pullela Gopichand (Badminton) |
| Team of the Year | Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary (10m air pistol) |
| Lifetime Achievement award | Balbir Singh Sr (Hockey) |
| Comeback of the Year | Koneru Humpy (Chess player) |
| Athlete of the Year (Differently abled) | Manasi Joshi (Badminton) |
| Moment of the Year | PV Sindhu's World Championships final win |
| The Courage award | Dutee Chand (Athlete) |

- ⊙ Weightlifter **Sambo Lapung** won the gold medal with a new national record of 188 kg in clean and jerk event in men's 89 kg event of the National Weightlifting Championships, held in Kolkata.
- ⊙ **Rakhi Halder** won the gold medal in the 64 kg event of the National Weightlifting Championships held in Kolkata.



- ⊙ Hockey India and Sports Authority of India has announced the plan of establishing the **High-Performance Hockey Centres** in seven places across India. It aims to provide state-of-the-art facilities to junior and sub-Junior players and to groom the young talent in view of 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games.
- ⊙ FIFA Under-17 **Women's Football World Cup 2020** will be hosted by the India which will comprise 5 cities namely Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai.

- ⊙ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has received the Asian Football Confederation's "Grassroots Charter Bronze Level" membership to promote its basic-level events as AFC recognised.
- ⊙ Three Bangladeshi and two Indian U-19 cricketers have been penalised by the International Cricket Council. The list of punished players includes Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain and Rakibul Hasan of Bangladesh; Akash Singh and Ravi Bishnoi of India.
- ⊙ Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced **Khelo India winter games 2020** which will be held in the Union Territory of Ladakh later this month followed by a similar event in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in March.
- ⊙ **Ross Taylor** of New Zealand has become the first player in the cricketing world to play 100 matches in all the three formats of the game, that is, One Day International matches, T20 International matches and Test matches.
- ⊙ Weightlifter **Ramshad AR** and wrestler **Ravinder Kumar** have been suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency for a period of 2 and 4 years, respectively after being found guilty of violating the anti-doping rule.
- ⊙ **Ajay Bisaria** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Canada.
- ⊙ **M Ajit Kumar** has appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs by the Central Government.
- ⊙ Former Indian Cricketer **Robin Singh** was appointed as director of cricket of the United Arab Emirates.
- ⊙ **Atul Kumar Gupta** and **Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria** have been elected as the new President and Vice President, respectively of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for 2020-21.
- ⊙ Veteran space scientist **G Narayanan** has been appointed as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation's newly formed commercial entity New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- ⊙ Senior IAS officer **Rajiv Bansal** named as the Chairman and Managing Director of national carrier Air India. He will succeed Ashwani Lohani.
- ⊙ **Rajiv Ranjan** named as the Secretary of Fisheries and will succeed Rajni Sekhri Sibal.
- ⊙ **Pawan Kumar Agarwal**, CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has been named as the Secretary of Consumer Affairs.

Persons in News

- ⊙ Cricketer **Rishabh Pant** has appointed as the brand ambassador of Jindal South West (JSW) Steel.
- ⊙ **Ryan Roslansky** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of LinkedIn Corporation. He will succeed Jeff Weiner and join this post in June 2020.
- ⊙ **Pramod Agrawal** appointed as the new chairman and managing director of Coal India Ltd.
- ⊙ India's Para-athlete **Deepa Malik** has been elected as the president of Paralympic Committee of India.
- ⊙ IFS **Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- ⊙ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik as member of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).
- ⊙ **Mahant Nritya Gopal** Das has been elected as the president and Champat Rai as the general secretary of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust.
- ⊙ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed retired IAS officers **Amarjeet Sinha** and **Bhaskar Khulbe** as the Advisers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ⊙ **Sanjay Kothari** has selected as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner while Bimal Julka as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- ⊙ Australia has appointed Barry O'Farrell as the next high commissioner to India. He will be succeeding Harinder Sidhu.
- ⊙ **GoAir** has appointed **Vinay Dube** as its new chief executive officer (CEO).
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Sunil Gurbaxani** as managing director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.
- ⊙ **Rajlaxmi Singh Deo** has been re-elected as the president of the Rowing Federation of India (RFI).
- ⊙ **Vijay Advani** has been appointed by the US-India Business Council (USIBC) as new chairman of its Global Board of Directors.



- ⊙ Hydropower giant National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) announced the appointment of **Abhay Kumar Singh** as the company's Chairman & Managing Director. He will replace Ratish Kumar.
- ⊙ Mastercard Chief Executive Officer **Ajay Banga** will step down at the start of the next year and will be replaced by Chief Product Officer Michael Miebach.
- ⊙ **TransUnion Cibil**, the largest credit information bureau appointed **Rajesh Kumar** of HDFC Bank as its new managing director and chief executive.
- ⊙ **Jawed Ashraf** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to France. He will succeed Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- ⊙ **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** will become the next Ambassador of India to Nepal, he will succeed Manjeev Singh Puri.
- ⊙ **Abhishek Singh** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Plans and Policies

- ⊙ **Sri Lanka** ranked first in a new survey conducted by the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative. The survey was conducted on "Breast Feeding support Policies and Programs" and in this, Sri Lanka received the green colour code after scoring 91 points out of 100 and became the first country to achieve the green nation status to support women who breastfeed.
- ⊙ Reliance General Insurance Company Limited has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named **Reliance Health Infinity** which will offer 90 days pre and 180 days post hospitalization cover.
- ⊙ **Paytm** has launched an Android POS device for small and medium businesses (SMEs) & merchant partners which will enable the merchants to accept payments in various ways like debit and credit cards, Paytm Wallet, UPI-based apps and cash.
- ⊙ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an industry campaign named **UPI Chalega** to promote UPI as easy, safe and instant mode of payment. This campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.
- ⊙ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a scheme named **Jagananna Vasthi Deevana**. This scheme is for students pursuing various post-intermediate courses to meet hostel and mess expenses.

- ⊙ Bharti AXA General Insurance, a private non-life insurer becomes the first company in India to use **WhatsApp chatbot**.



Through this service, the company started delivering policies and renewal premium to its customers and also planning to sell the private car, two-wheeler and travel insurance.

Awards and Honours

- ⊙ **Oscar awards 2020** has been held at the 92nd Academy Awards Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, California, United States. Joaquin Phoenix wins best actor for the film Joker. Renée Zellweger won the best actress title and Parasite wins best picture.



List of Winners

| Category | Winner |
|--|--|
| Best picture | Parasite |
| Best actress | Renée Zellweger (for Judy) |
| Best actor | Joaquin Phoenix (for Joker) |
| Best director | Bong Joon-ho (for Parasite) |
| Best music (original song) | "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from Rocketman |
| Best music (original score) | Joker |
| International feature film (South Korea) | Parasite |
| Best Makeup and hairstyling | Bombshell |
| Visual effects | 1917 |

| Category | Winner |
|---------------------------|--|
| Best film (Editing) | Ford vs Ferrari |
| Best cinematography | Roger Deakins (for 1917) |
| Best sound mixing | 1917 |
| Best sound editing | Ford vs Ferrari |
| Best supporting actress | Laura Dern (for Marriage Story) |
| Documentary short feature | Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl) |
| Documentary feature | American Factory |
| Best costume design | Jacqueline Durran (for Little Women) |
| Best production design | Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood |
| Live-action short film | The Neighbors' Window |
| Best adapted screenplay | Taika Waititi, Jojo Rabbit |
| Best original screenplay | Bong Joon-ho (for Parasite) |
| Animated short film | Hair Love |
| Animated feature film | Toy Story 4 |
| Best supporting actor | Brad Pitt (for Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood) |

- ⊙ ESPNcricinfo (sports news website) announced the 13th edition of the **Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019**. The awards were presented under 12 categories & selected by a jury comprising former cricketers, ESPNcricinfo senior editors, writers & global correspondents.

List of Winners

| Category | Winner |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Captain of the year | Eoin Morgan (England) |
| Test batting performance of the year | Kusal Perera (Sri Lanka) |
| Test bowling performance of the year | Kemar Roach (West Indies) |
| ODI batting performance of the year | Ben Stokes (England) |
| ODI bowling performance of the year | Matt Henry (New Zealand) |
| T20I batting performance of the year | Gleen Maxwell (Australia) |
| T20I bowling performance of the year | Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka) |

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Debutant of the year | Jofra Archer (England) |
| Women's batting performance of the year | Meg Lanning (Australia) |
| Women's bowling performance of the year | Ellyse Perry (Australia) |
| Associate batting performance of the year | George Munsey (Scotland) |
| Associate bowling performance of the year | Bilal Khan (Oman) |

- ⊙ **David Warner** won the Australian cricketer of the year award by beating teammate Steve Smith with one vote in their first season following the ball-tampering ban that brought their rollicking careers to a one-year halt. Warner won his third Allan Border Medal with 194 votes, while former Test captain Smith got 193 votes and fast bowler Pat Cummins got 185.
- ⊙ **RailMadad** has been awarded Silver under Category II of the National e-Governance Awards - 'Excellence in providing Citizen-centric Delivery', conferred during the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance which was held in Mumbai. The RailMadad portal can be accessed by Railways customers via the RailMadad helpline no. 139 (with IVRS, voice and SMS facilities), RailMadad website, and the RailMadad App (on android & iOS).
- ⊙ **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020** announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Actor Ravi Dubey served as the host of the event. Hrithik Roshan bagged the Best Actor award for film "Super 30".



List of Winners

| Category | Winner |
|--|---|
| Best Film | Super 30 |
| Best Actor | Hrithik Roshan (Super 30) |
| Most Promising Actor | Kiccha Sudeep |
| Best Actor in Television Series | Dheeraj Dhoopar |
| Best Actress in Television | Divyanka Tripathi |
| Most Favourite Television Actor | Harshad Chopda |
| Most Favourite Jodi in Television Series | Sriti Jha and Shabbir Ahluwalia (Kumkum Bhagya) |
| Best Television Series | Kumkum Bhagya |
| Best Playback Singer Male | Armaan Malik |
| Best Reality Show | Bigg Boss 13 |

